



A Summary from the Conference

Greenbo Lake State Resort Park

Greenup, Ky.

November 3, 2010



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Introduction

The brownfields of Central Appalachia present great challenges and great opportunities. Unfortunately, the bureaucratic boundaries, such as those of states and EPA regions, often interfere with the exchange of information and strategies that could lead to the successful cleanup and redevelopment of these properties.

As an attempt to bridge these divisions, the Kentucky Brownfield Program hosted “Exploring Community Revitalization in Central Appalachia.” This conference was held November 3, 2010, at Greenbo Lake State Resort Park, close to where three affected states (Kentucky, Ohio and West Virginia) and three EPA regions (3, 4 and 5) meet. This was a participant-driven conference that brought together 29 individuals, representing a broad section of stakeholders, including the private sector and governmental and nongovernmental agencies.

The participants engaged in active discussions during breakout sessions on eight topics. There were also seven “lightning round” presentations on successful projects that are happening in the region.

Many of the attendees were from organizations that were not previously familiar with each other. It appears that the event will give birth to several mutually beneficial collaborations.

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Disclaimer: The views expressed in the breakout session summaries represent those of the participants and do not necessarily represent those of the Commonwealth of Kentucky or any of its agencies.

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Breakout Session 1A
Homegrown Jobs – Promoting local entrepreneurship

What is the link between brownfields and entrepreneurship?

- 1) Educate link b/w the two
- 2) Buy-in from local leaders/gov't

Issues

- Cleanup
- Ownership
- Cost vs. value
- **Best** use for community
- Planning
- Opportunities (ex: Recycling) for Business
- Env't'l impact, health issues

Identifying Opportunity

What skills are there of missing?

- Need

Who are the partners?

- CoC
- Comm. College
 - ED
- Family Resource Network (WV FRN)
 - KY- Econ. Development District
- Extension Services (USDA)
- Small Business Devlp't
- Faith-based Institutions
 - Orgs already working together

Challenges

- Changing perceptions
 - using resources to use brownfields
- Engaging all local assets
 - need to educate
- Brownfields (Apply to Rural Communities as well)
- Available land

Brownfields

- Classic definition of BF
 - Can assess until you prove no env't'l contamination
- Expanded Definition
 - using open idea (**BE CREATIVE**) to address downtowns, abandoned bldgs.

→ Access to funding streams (ex: Rails to Trails)

Using Brownfields as an Entrepreneurship Strategy for Main Street

- Reinvesting in older bldgs.
- Cooperatives to allow small entrepreneurs to build small biz.

Phases

-
- Assessment
 - Agreement w/ owner
 - Who can apply? (Public Entities)
- Apply for cleanup grant
 - Pub. Entities or Nonprofit can apply

Breakout Session 1B
Post-mining land uses

- Q 1. Golf Course
- Q 2. Single Family Housing
- E 3. Airports
- E 4. Industrial Parks
- Q 5. Parks
- Q 6. ATVs & Off-Road Trails
- E 7. Bioenergy – growing & processing
- E 8. Solar Energy
- Q 9. Schools
- E 10. Prisons
- E 11. Timbering
- Q 12. Eco-Tourism – Elk

[“Q” and “E” were designations from the discussion group as to whether the use was *primarily* of “Quality of Life” or of “Economic” benefit to the community.]

Breakout Session 1C

How to ensure that rural areas and small towns have the same access to state and federal resources as big cities

- Separate pots of money (& separate completion) for large & small communities
- Better outreach & education for smaller communities → states, ADDs, feds. (League of Cities, Assoc. of Counties & Dept. of Local Gov. can help)
- More than just e-mail, need to educate about program, make less intimidating (e.g. don't know what brownfields are and that they have them)
- Educating on how to combine multiple funding sources
- Communities have commitment, vision – need help with funding
- Turn-over of officials → continual reeducation
- Have educational meetings near the small communities!

Breakout Session 1D
Addressing Appalachian watershed issues –
acid mine drainage, straight piping, sedimentation and flooding

Straight Pipe –

- Decentralized systems
- Fed \$ = 319
- OSLP – Septic Systems
- Package Plant Oper = Problem
- PRIDE Program (KY)
- KY DOT Shops – oil/water sep
- Use what PSD knows best
- In-Line Options?
- Grey Water Recirc

Flooding-

- Bldg Permits – Flood Plain
- Flood Damage Reduction Plan – USACE
- Buy-Out Program
- Move Up & Out of Flood Pl
- Housing Nonprofit Education
 - Partner w/ WS/Env Org.
- Zoning/Land-Use Planning
- Community Visioning Sessions
- Revitalize Former (Coal Camp) Communities
- Focus on History of Site

Acid Mine Drainage

- BF Grants – WS Eval of AMD
 - Landowner ID
 - Water Sampling
 - Prioritize & Rank
 - Ultimate Eco-Tourism End-Use
- Civilian Cons Corps
- AmeriCorps/VISTA/NCCC
- Wetland Treatment
- Potential Biofuel Connection → Landowner Incentive

Breakout Session 2A

Access to technologies and other strategies to catalyze small projects in small towns

Technologies

- Internet (Broadband)
 - Also underutilized
- Media (Radio or TV)
- Energy, Ag, Env't'l
- Health & Education
- Social & Mobile Tech

Strategies for Catalyzing Small Projects/Small Communities

1. Education
 - Matching tech w/ need
 - Increase literacy/capacity
2. Sharing Resources
 - Ed institutions share capacity
 - Community institutions (Libraries, Schools)
3. Infrastructure
 - Critical
 - Access Points (Where are they?)

What small projects?

- A) Working Remotely/In the field/From home
 - Service-oriented/based industry
 - Artisans – crafts business, eco-tourism
 - Marketing strategy
 - Biz-to-Biz networks
 - Going local
- B) Combining Resources
 - Cottage industry
 - Agriculture
 - Cooperatives
- C) Brownfields (?)

Breakout Session 2B
Biomass and biofuel opportunities

NEED RPS [Renewable Portfolio Standard]

14.5 – 28.0 Million Tons Annual Potential

1. Mined Lands
 - Western Kentucky
 - Eastern Kentucky
2. Economic Development
3. Waste Stream from Landfills to Energy Production
4. Avoid Food Stock
5. Algae
6. Transportation Energy versus Electric Energy - Which has the priority?
7. Economic Multiplier – Will it create jobs?

Breakout Session 2C

“Will the Circle Be Unbroken” – how to maintain an ongoing conversation of stakeholders across state lines and EPA regional boundaries

- Information database of projects, programs and successes of gvt and nonprofit organizations (Incentives for organization to submit & update info.)
- Being inclusive of all stakeholders, but finding those who are rational and have a mind to compromise and continue the talk
- Facilitating organization that engages in tireless constant contact and outreach with relevant stakeholders
- Training people to learn how to develop partnerships and work with other groups
- Physical tools such as a memorandum of understanding document between stakeholders
- Highlight successes and collaborations in local and regional media
- Cost & logistics of meetings need to be low to include diverse population
- Provide neutral forum for discussion where no stakeholder values exceed others
 - skilled facilitators
- Transparency of laws & policies from state-to-state
- Litmus test for success: partnerships
 - Document outcomes
 - Follow up
- Dissemination of information/outcomes after the fact
 - Policymakers
 - Grant applications
 - Media
 - Other orgs outside of the region
- Talk w/ other stakeholder networks to see what does & doesn't work
- Research similar events, meetings, and participants to identify willing stakeholders

Breakout Session 2D
Down in the dumps – Redeveloping old dumps and landfills

- \$ to county (jobs) f/ cleanup
- Countywide assessment of old/illegal dump sites
- Advertise – ask for locations
- State list of permitted sites

Redevelopment

- Commercial (Hotel, Rest, Bus Stes)
- Methane generation
- Recreation (Ballfield)
 - Interim until final end use

Lightning Round Presentations

EPA Brownfield Grants - Letcher County

Mr. Robert Perkins, P.G.
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Mr. Ron Brunty
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Happy Hollow Landfill - From Eyesore to Governor's Conference Award Winner

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(Regional network of economic development professionals in Eastern Kentucky)

Eastern Coal Regional Roundtable - Protecting and Restoring Appalachian Waters from the Top Down and the Bottom Up

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www.epa.gov/surf/ (EPA Surf Your Watershed)

www.easterncoal.org (Eastern Coal Regional Roundtable)

FOCUS WV Brownfields (Foundation for Overcoming Challenges & Utilizing Strengths)

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Biomass & Biofuels Potential

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The Role of Philanthropy in Community Revitalization for Rural Appalachia

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